

Featured Information

- Thomas C. Cario Middle School earned a Gold for Absolute Rating and Gold for Improvement Rating this school year through the state Palmetto Achievement Program. Cario is the only comprehensive, public middle school in South Carolina to earn both of these awards this school year.
- Our student body consists of 1338 students in grades 6-8, representing 82% White, 11% African American, 3% Asian, 3% Hispanic, and 1% other ethnicities.
- We currently have 102 full-time faculty and staff and 4 part-time staff.
- Cario is one of the top five largest middle schools in South Carolina with the highest PASS test scores in the state for a comprehensive middle school.
- Cario Middle School believes that parent involvement and positive relationships with the community best supports successful students. We encourage parent volunteers, provide newsletters and information to parents, and leave open communication for the benefit of all our students and their families.

CARIO COMETS!



Thomas C. Cario Middle School Annual School Improvement Council Report to the Parents 2013-2014



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<http://cario.ccsdschools.com/home>

Administrative Team

Sharon Randall, Principal, sharon_randall@charleston.k12.sc.us
Danielle Hutcherson, 8th Grade Assistant Principal
Nathan Wood, 7th Grade Assistant Principal
Laura Osborne, 6th Grade Assistant Principal

Cario Middle School SIC Members

Laurie Holstein, Chairman, Parent
Eric Baker, Chairman, Teacher
Jennifer Gomez, Secretary, Parent
Erica Mims-Carlton, Community Member
Josh Forrest, Community Member
Kim Owenby-Lapin, Parent
Naomi Hambleton, Parent
Sarah Johnson, Parent
Margaret Moran, Community Member
Nicholas Reece, Community Member
Marjorie White, Teacher
Patricia White, Parent
Bob Lang, Community Member
Susan Gourdin, PTSO, Ex-officio Member
Sharon Randall, Principal
Danielle Hutcherson, Assistant Principal
Nathan Wood, Assistant Principal
Laura Osborne, Assistant Principal

Purpose of the Report

"This Report is issued by the Cario Middle School School Improvement Council in accordance with South Carolina law to share information on the school's progress in meeting various goals and objectives, the work of the SIC, and other accomplishments during the school year."

The purpose of Cario's School Improvement Council (SIC) shall be to evaluate current practices and conditions at Cario that effect student performance, identify areas that need improvement, and offer suggestions for programs, incentives, and activities to attain clearly defined goals. The SIC goals are aligned with the Charleston County School District's mission statement. The mission of CCSD is to increase student achievement overall and close the achievement gaps in order to prepare all students to compete in a global economy and make a positive contribution to our community and nation.

Cario Middle School continues its tradition of excellence in academics, arts, and extra-curricular activities. Cario is a highly successful middle school with a large campus, a small-school atmosphere, and huge opportunities for students. Our students have shown growth in reading, mathematics, and language usage through their Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) scores and have also consistently demonstrated mastery of rigorous academic standards.

Cario provides a quality academic program at all grade levels, as well as a structured system of interventions for students who need academic assistance. Students have opportunities to earn high school credits and may take exploratory courses, such as choices in the Fine Arts, Spanish, pre-engineering, health, computer, journalism, and fitness. Cario has one of the highest percentages of students identified as gifted and talented (GT) in the Charleston County School District. Cario students compete in numerous local, state, and national academic challenges – and win TOP awards, such as in the S.C. Science Olympiad, American Mathematic Competition, Math Counts competition, CCSD Spellbound Spelling Bee, Quest, LEGO Robotics, SC State Scholastic Chess Championship, and National Geographic Geography Bee, to name just a few.

The Cario Chorus was named 2013 S.C. Choral Festival State Champions, and Cario is the only school in South Carolina to have students selected to every regional and national honor choir since 2000. Orchestra students received superior ratings at the S.C. Concert Festival, along with many other awards. Cario's band received the state's Outstanding Performance Award for the thirteenth consecutive year and earned superior ratings at the S.C. Concert Festival, among other awards. Cario Visual artists have earned numerous awards in local, state, and national competitions, such as placing in the top awards for the REEL ART competition, Federal Junior DUCK Stamp competition, top 3 in the James Island Festival of Lights Post Card Competition, and top 2 in QUEST, among many others. Drama students were involved in several productions during the year, including the

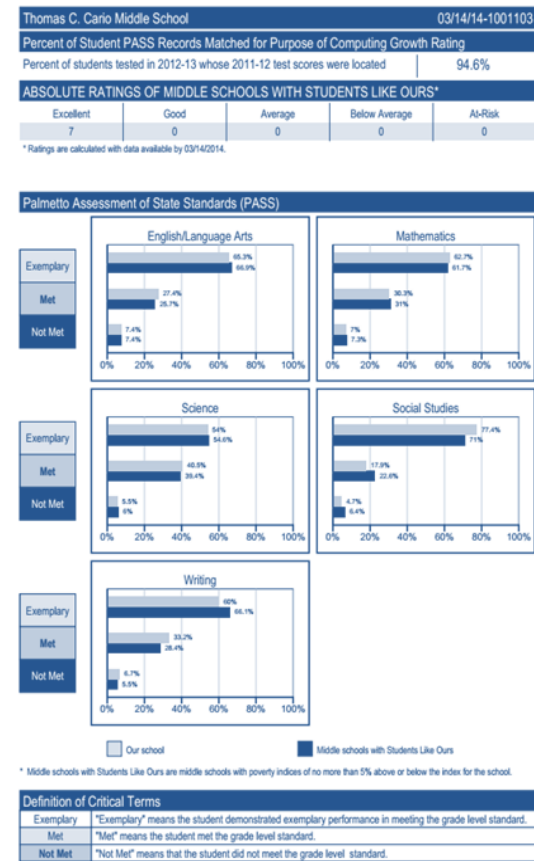
huge, mid-year *Willy Wonka*, to rave reviews. They also have won numerous awards in local and state competitions. Cario students have competed in local private and community teams in football, volleyball cheerleading, soccer, tennis, swimming, golf, baseball, and softball – and win numerous competitions and awards. The yearbook staff produced a high-quality publication, and our new Gardening Club is working to grow vegetables for our cafeteria, along with growing flowers to make our school more attractive. Our students organized and began a new student-led and student-focused *Leadership Is* program to link our students with community service projects and programs. Our PTSO has worked with our faculty, staff, and students to open a school store this year and a Spirit Pantry to offer food and supplies to our Cario families in need. We have spent much time over this school year focusing on student leadership and philanthropy, and we hope to continue and grow what was started this school year for many years to come.

The Cario staff participates in on-going professional development in order to meet the needs of our students. Cario Middle School uses the Making Middle Grades Work national model to implement positive changes in our school. We recognize the importance of high expectations, rigorous academics, and a safe, supportive learning environment for all students. As partners in education, our faculty and staff, parents, and community members support and actively participate in making Cario Middle School a model for educational excellence: We strive to reach our goal of “preparing resourceful, positive, service-oriented leaders of tomorrow!”

Sharon Randall, Principal
Laurie Holstein, SIC Chair

Student Achievement Earned Palmetto Gold Award

YEAR	ABSOLUTE RATING	GROWTH RATING
2013	Excellent	Good
2012	Excellent	Excellent
2011	Excellent	Excellent
2010	Excellent	Excellent
2009	Excellent	Average



For more information, you may view Cario's "S.C. School Report Card" for the 2013 school year online at www.ed.sc.gov.

SIC Annual Goals

Our vision is to build efficient and effective communication with our parents and community to better support our students. We will focus on closing any achievement gaps and supporting individual student needs. Ultimately, we will make Cario Middle School the best middle school in the State of South Carolina. We have seen great results in student MAP scores this school year as we focus on increasing rigorous lessons in every classroom and providing tiered interventions for students needing extra assistance. We want to ensure every child is successful at Cario Middle School and in the next stages to come in school and in life.